

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing drawn filaments which comprises heating original filaments supplied from a filament supply means by infrared beams, ~~and then~~ drawing the filaments heated to 1000 times or more under a tension provided by the own weight of the filaments , or under a tension of 1 Mpa or less, and having a degree of orientation of 20.8% or more in view of birefringence for the drawn filaments.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~heating is conducted~~ original filaments are heated by infrared beams within a range of 8 mm or less.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein filaments are delivered from a blowing duct before the filaments are heated by infrared beams.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 1, ~~2 or 7~~, wherein the original filaments have a degree of orientation of 30% or more when measured in view of a birefringence and are drawn with ~~an~~ a swelled portion larger than the diameter of the original filaments at the drawing start point.

10. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the obtained drawn filaments have a diameter of 5 μm or less.

11. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the drawn filaments are heated in a heating zone disposed subsequently.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the drawn filaments are further drawn and then wound up.

14. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing non-woven fabrics comprised of drawn filaments according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the drawn filaments are accumulated on a running conveyor.

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing drawn filaments comprising a supply device for original filaments, a guiding device to regulate a position of filaments before the original filaments are heated by infrared beams, and an infrared beam emitter for heating the original filaments within a range fo 8 mm or less, and means to control a drawing tension to draw 1000 times

or more the original filaments ~~in which the heated filaments are drawn~~ by tension provided by their own weight or tension of 1 Mpa or less.

16. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 15, wherein the infrared beam emitter is a laser emitter.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim ~~15~~ or 16, wherein the laser beam is a carbon dioxide gas laser having a power density of 15 W/cm^2 or more.

18. (Original) An apparatus for manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 15, wherein a heating device having a heating zone is provided to the drawing means and the drawn filaments are heated.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 15, wherein a drawing means is further provided to ~~the apparatus~~ for manufacturing drawn filaments.

21. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing non-woven fabrics comprised of drawn filaments according to claim 15, ~~wherein comprising~~ a running conveyor ~~is disposed to the manufacturing apparatus of the drawn filaments, and~~ on which drawn filaments are accumulated ~~on said conveyor.~~

22. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing drawn filaments according to claim 15, wherein a blowing duct is disposed before ~~heating~~ of the original filaments are heated by the infrared beams, and the original filaments are delivered by the blowing duct.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A highly oriented super micro filament in which the drawn filaments according to claim 1 ~~of 2~~ are nylon 6 or nylon 66 and have the birefringence of 35×10^{-3} or more and the fiber diameter of $5 \mu\text{m}$ or less.

27. (Currently amended) A highly oriented super micro filament in which the drawn filaments according to claim 1 ~~of 2~~ are polyethylene terephthalate and have the birefringence of 30×10^{-3} or more and a diameter of $5 \mu\text{m}$ or less.

28. (Currently amended) A highly oriented super micro filament in which the drawn filaments according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ are isotactic polypropylene and have the birefringence of 20×10^{-3} or more and a diameter of $5 \mu\text{m}$ or less.